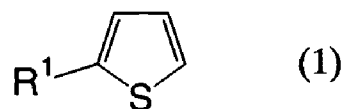


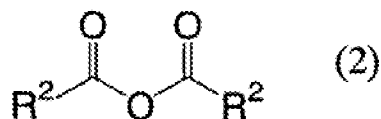
LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1 as follows.

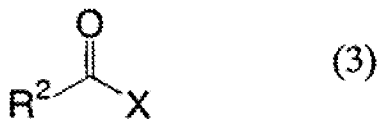
1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a 2-acylthiophene compound comprising reacting a thiophene compound represented by formula (1):



wherein R¹ is a hydrogen atom, a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, a phenyl group, or a halogen atom, with at least one member selected from the group consisting of acid anhydrides represented by formula (2):

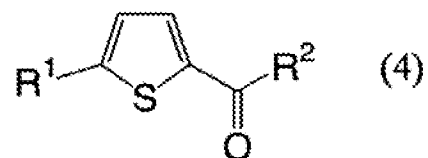


wherein R² is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group or a phenyl group, and acid halides represented by formula (3):



wherein R² is defined above and X is a halogen atom,

in the presence of a cation exchange resin at a temperature ~~less than 75°C~~ of 10°C to 60°C in the absence of solvent, thus producing a 2-acylthiophene compound represented by formula (4):



wherein R¹ and R² are as defined above.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the cation exchange resin is used in an amount of 0.1 to 50 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the thiophene compound.